Bismarck, ND – The Industrial Commission of North Dakota approved $166,174 in Outdoor Heritage Fund matching grants for five conservation and recreation projects benefiting North Dakotans across the state. The funding, generated from oil and gas production tax revenue, supports projects such as access to public and private lands for sportsmen, farming and ranching stewardship practices, fish and wildlife habitat preservation, and outdoor recreation areas.

The projects approved include:

- $8,000 – City of Columbus: Develop the old Columbus High School lot into a new community park called Cougar Park. Funds will be used to purchase playground equipment, prepare the lot, and safely install equipment.
- $60,000 – Cass County Soil Conservation District: Provide financial and technical assistance for establishing conservation cover crops in Cass County.
- $6,597 – City of Turtle Lake: Replace the existing ground cover under the community’s playground equipment with new ground cover in accordance with First District Health Unit’s requirements.
- $50,000 – Devils Lake Park Board: Install a floating dock, boat slips, gangway, and suspended walkway on the east side of Creel Bay next to the Creel Bay Golf Course Clubhouse to increase the public’s ability to dock boats.
- $41,577 – Sargent County Water Resource District: To alleviate the safety concerns of water seepage through the embankment of Silver Lake Dam, protect the available recreational and natural resources, and provide flood protection for properties along the Wild Rice River.

The Industrial Commission of North Dakota, which oversees the Outdoor Heritage Fund, consists of Gov. Doug Burgum as chairman, Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem and Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring.

The next submission deadline for grant applications from state agencies, tribal governments, political subdivisions and non-profit organizations is Sept. 1, 2020. More information about the program, including the application process, can be found on the Outdoor Heritage Fund website at [http://www.nd.gov/ndic/outdoor-infopage.htm](http://www.nd.gov/ndic/outdoor-infopage.htm).

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